



NEWS RELEASE

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SBA ISSUES FINAL SIZE STANDARDS FOR ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced today it has taken steps to finalize a new increased size standard for firms engaged in engineering, architectural, surveying and mapping services. Starting June 14, businesses in these industries looking to qualify as small will have to show their average annual receipts are \$4 million or less.

The new standard, which is expected to affect nearly 1,500 companies, was published in the *Federal Register* on May 14, 1999. The final rule is available at <http://www.sba.gov/library/lawroom.html>, and a full listing of all SBA size standards is available on the Web at <http://www.sba.gov/regulations/siccodes>.

“America’s expanding economy is bringing growth to nearly every sector,” said SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez. **“The decision to increase these size standards simply reflects this change and allows more firms to continue using SBA’s business development assistance. The assistance helps firms serve their customers, increasing the potential for success as we move into the 21st century.”**

The new \$4 million standard is an increase for all four sectors. Under current regulations, general engineering, architectural and surveying services all qualify as “small” if their average annual receipts are less than \$2.5 million. For mapping services, the current size standard is \$3.5 million.

The SBA estimates that of the nearly 1,500 firms that will now qualify as small, 1,015 operate in engineering services, 340 in architectural services, 60 in surveying and 45 in mapping services. Combined, these small businesses generate an estimated \$2.3 billion in annual sales.

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